



RCE/1700

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Pietro Padovani

) Examiner: J. Mackey

) Art Unit: 1722

Patent Appl: 08/809,340

) Our Ref: B-3289PCT

) 615920-5/RPB

Filed: May 6, 1997

) Date: April 7, 2003

For: "THERMOFORMING APPARATUS ..."

) Re: RCE

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37 CFR 1.114 REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

4/8/03
4/11/03

BOX RCE

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a Request under 37 CFR 1.114 for a Request for Continued Examination of the above referenced application. This request is timely filed within the time allowed for response to the Final Office Action mailed December 5, 2002, before payment of the Issue Fee, abandonment or termination of proceedings on the identified application along with a Preliminary Amendment and a petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please note that a separate response to the Final Office Action was previously filed on March 3, 2003.

This request is accompanied by a check for the RCE fee in the amount of \$750.00 as specified in 37 CFR 1.17(e). The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayments, and to charge any further fees required to ensure the continued examination of this application to deposit account no. 12-0425.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on:

April 7, 2003

(Date of Deposit)

Ross A. Schmitt

(Name of Person Depositing)

Ross A. Schmitt
(Signature)

4-7-2003

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

Ross A. Schmitt

Ross A. Schmitt

Attorney for Applicant

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) Re: *Preliminary Amendment*

4/9/03
4/17/03
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box RCE
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is filed as filed as a Preliminary Amendment to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed herewith. The RCE and this Preliminary Amendment are being filed on the first business day after the three month deadline date with a one month extension of time. Therefore, these papers are being filed with a petition for a one month extension of time. **All amendments and remarks herein are made without prejudice.**

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 21, 23 and 45. Please amend Claim 43. Please add new Claims 46 - 49. A complete listing of all claims that are or were present in the application is presented on the following pages 2 - 7 of this paper.